(e) whether Government are confident that the allocation for the Tenth Plan will be fully utilised and will be helpful to the country; and

(f) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The approved plan outlay for university and higher education sector, during the X Five Year Plan is Rs. 4176.50 crore.

(b) and (c) The expenditure for this sector during the VIII Five Year Plan and the IX Five Year Plan was Rs. 1055.82 crore and 2270.92 crore as against the approved outlays of Rs. 701.55 crore and 2500.00 crore respectively.

(d) While during the VIII Plan period, strengthening of University departments in term of laboratories, workshops and library services, introduction of new and specialized courses and reappraisal of existing courses/re-training of teachers in new courses were undertaken, the issue of relevance and quality of education, access and equity, university and social change, and management of education were addressed in the IX Plan.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) During the X Plan period, it is envisaged to increase the enrolment of students of the relevant age group (18 to 23 years) in higher education from the existing 6% to 10%. Both conventional and open learning systems would be used for achieving this global. Besides, issues of quality and access, relevance, research and development and private participation are also proposed to be addressed.

Reconstitution of CABE

1780. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the stand taken by the Ministry regarding the reconstitution of CABE which has been the matter of discussion over a year;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) what prompted the Ministry to undertake the reconstitution of CABE; and

(d) the main aims and objectives of reconstituting the CABE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The proposal for re-constitution of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), including its composition was considered by the then and successive governments after the expiry of the extended tenure of the last CABE on 31.3.1994, but no final decision could be taken. However, the Government has recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J.C. Pant, former Secretary to the Govt. of India, for evolving an effective mechanism for consultation and coordination with all stakeholders including State Governments, for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects in pursuance of the National Education Policy.

Total Expenditure on Primary Education

1781. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiatives for increasing the total expenditure on primary education in the country, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with the aim of Universalisation of Elementary Education. Under this programme, Districts prepare district Elementary Education plans based on the requirements of a district. In 2002-03, Government of India has approved plans of 592 districts for a total outlay of Rs. 5441 crore.

Literacy in Jharkhand

1782. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy, overall as well as among male and female respectively, in the state of Jharkhand;